

court that has directly considered the issue has upheld the law. Nevertheless, the Justice Department will not abide by its duty to defend the statute, and I believe it is critical that the Congress file an amicus brief or intervene in the Supreme Court defending it.

In this case, the Justice Department has deliberately chosen to side with defense attorneys over prosecutors and law enforcement. It has deliberately chosen to side with criminals over victims and their families. This is a serious error. The Department should not make arguments in the courts on behalf of criminals. This is a sad day for the Department of Justice.

THUGGERY IN KOSOVO

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to condemn in the strongest manner possible the anti-democratic violence that continues in Kosovo. This violence takes many forms, the most widely publicized of which is attacks by ethnic Albanians on Serbs and other minority groups in the province. KFOR and the U.N. Mission must stamp out these attacks immediately.

What has received less media attention is the intimidation, and occasional violence, within the ethnic Albanian community. Recently there were public threats against the lives of two of Kosovo's most respected journalists, Veton Surroi and Baton Haxhiu, editors of the newspaper "Koha Ditore."

On my trip to Kosovo eight weeks ago, I met with Mr. Surroi. He had already spoken out against violence against Kosovo's Serbs and was already receiving private threats as a result. Mr. Surroi is a worldly, courageous democrat—exactly the sort of person that Kosovo needs to achieve genuine democracy.

During the same trip, I also met with Hashim Thaqi, political leader of the Kosovo Liberation Army. I told Mr. Thaqi that he and his forces would have to submit unconditionally to civilian authority and respect the rights of all political parties, ethnic groups, and individuals in Kosovo.

With this as background, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that an open letter published in Kosova Sot on October 29, 1999 by James R. Hooper, President of the Balkan Action Council, to Mr. Thaqi appear in the RECORD after my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. Hooper, incidentally, testified before the Foreign Relations Committee earlier this year and is considered to be one of this country's most knowledgeable experts on the Balkans.

Mr. President, those of us in the Congress who supported the legitimate rights of the people of Kosovo to escape the brutality of Slobodan Milosevic will not stand idly by and watch a Ser-

bian tyrannical master be replaced by an ethnic Albanian one.

As Mr. Hooper's eloquent letter makes clear, Mr. Thaqi and the other leaders of the Kosovo Liberation Army must immediately and forcefully speak out against the thuggery that is afflicting the province and take measures to eradicate it.

Mr. President, if they do not, they will lose the support of the international community. And without that support, they themselves have no political future.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

OCTOBER 29, 1999.

OPEN LETTER TO HASHIM THAQI: I am deeply troubled by the public threats against Veton Surroi and Baton Haxhiu of Koha Ditore that recently appeared in Kosovapress, the media organ associated with your organization. Surroi and Haxhiu are viewed in the United States and Europe as two of the most prominent supporters of democracy and free speech in Kosovo. If they are at risk, it means that Kosovo's hopes for democracy and free speech are jeopardized as well.

Your unwillingness to immediately condemn such extreme attacks on two outstanding representatives of Kosovo's civil society suggests that you hold a vision of Kosovo's political future in which those who democratically express differences of opinion will not be tolerated, and dissent will be harshly disciplined.

This in turn projects to your fellow citizens an anti-democratic attitude that is intolerable. And it conveys the impression to the international community that you and some of your former KLA colleagues maintain a hidden agenda for Kosovo that is far from democratic.

I want to make one thing absolutely clear: I am convinced there will be no support among Kosovo's friends around the world, including me, for the replacement of a Serbian dictatorship by an ethnic Albanian copy. If Kosovo's future is not to be democratic, then it will not likely be independent either. Independence must be earned in the democratic political arena as well as on the battlefield. Support among the American people and their elected representatives and government for the people of Kosovo would disappear rapidly if Kosovo moved in non-democratic directions.

Unfortunately, the actions of some who support you, and your own apparent indifference and inaction in the face of the killing of Kosovo citizens, are already jeopardizing the continuation of that support. The pattern of violence against Kosovo Serbs appears to reflect in part an organized effort by some in the former KLA to expel all Serbs from Kosovo. The murder of elderly Serbs and unarmed villagers evokes an atmosphere of terror in which innocent minorities are brutalized by those with the power to dispense victor's "justice."

A Kosovo in which the rights of non-Albanian minorities are routinely violated is not likely to prove respectful of Albanians whose views do not fit those of the prevailing forces. After all, this is the model Belgrade used for over ten years. A mono-ethnic Kosovo forcibly cleansed of its minorities through violence is unlikely to be a democratic Kosovo.

While you have spoken out against the killings of ethnic Serbs in the past, you have taken few serious steps to rein in those who

are organizing the violence. I strongly urge you to take determined action to remove suspicions that you condone the violence against Kosovo's non-Albanian minorities and to condemn the threats to Veton Surroi and Baton Haxhiu.

JAMES HOOPER,
Executive Director,
Balkan Action Council.

OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I am not going to ask for a recorded vote against S. 688, the re-authorization of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation. But I want to make it clear that I am not stepping back from my philosophies on this issue.

During my campaign for the United States Senate, I stressed the themes of balancing the budget, congressional reform, making government smaller, and moving the power out of Washington and into the states and localities. That is why I introduced the "Overseas Private Investment Corporation Termination Act."

I still feel it is time to end this form of subsidies for large companies. I have never believed in giveaway programs. Whether you are a farmer or a large corporation you should play by the rules of the free market system. Less government should be in the motto of this and every Congress.

OPIC may seem to have a good end goal but the problem is not the end but the means. Basically this is an insurance program run by the Federal Government for corporations who want to invest in risky political situations. This leads to the question, "Is this the appropriate role for government?" I don't believe so. But I also understand that the time is not yet ripe for ending this program.

I have met with the President of OPIC, George Munoz. He and I have agreed that our problem is not a conflict of interest, not different goals, and not a lack of proper communication. We merely have a fundamental philosophical difference. I believe free trade means free trade, not "more free than others."

I am a free trader. I am a supporter of the GATT and NAFTA. I believe that free trade is the best way to raise the living standards for all Americans. We need to support policies that reduce trade barriers. OPIC does not reduce trade barriers for all companies to compete in the marketplace. It is an income transfer program from U.S. taxpayers to a selected group of businesses. These subsidies may increase exports for a few selected companies that have the political influence to secure these loans, but it does little to expand the overall economic growth of this country.

OPIC's re-authorization will soon pass this Senate, but I wish it to be known that I still recommend its termination. I continue to worry that the